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to Naramore, Mr. Keating, is four miles thro' the finest open sheep walk champaign countrey that ever I saw, excellent land, but all unenclosed and under sheep. From Narramore two hours and a half brought us by Mr. Nixon's to Kildare thro' a sheep walk and corn countrey. At Kildare we lay Saturday, y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>.

# OGHAM STONE, WITH BILINGUAL INSCRIPTION, AT LLANFECHAN, CARDIGANSHIRE.

[Extracted from the *Archæologiæ Cambrensis*, vol. vii., third Series, p. 42.]<sup>1</sup>

THE early inscribed stone which still exists in this locality, in a position where it may be easily injured, though it is known but to few, is thus noticed in Meyrick's *Cardiganshire* :—

“LLANVAUGHAN.—In the kitchen garden, by the side of the gate, is an ancient inscribed stone, about nine feet three inches in height above the ground, and one foot eight inches in breadth. The inscription may be read as follows: TRENACATUS IC JACET FILIVS MAGLAGNI; who was buried, in all probability, in the chapel called *Capel Whyl*, as this stone was found in the eastern wall of the ruins of that building, a few feet below the surface of the earth” (pp. 191–2).

It is somewhat remarkable that Sir Samuel, who was so acute and accurate an observer, should have made no mention of the Oghamic characters upon one of the edges and the top of the stone; for although the existence of an Oghamic alphabet was then not known in Wales, yet the marks in this instance are so peculiarly well defined that they could hardly have escaped his notice. Edward Lhwyd had delineated some of them on the SAGRAMNVS stone, though he said nothing about them. His worthy disciple in the present instance passed them equally *sub silentio*.

Such being the history and description of the general condition of this stone, it remains to consider the inscription itself. The letters indicate a very early period; the same, in fact, *whatever that period may really be*, as that of the SAGRAMNVS stone, so well known to our members. The absence of the H in the second line; the uncertainty, or the mistake, in the cutting of the T and the F; the peculiar forms of the G,—are all points of interest, and may help to

<sup>1</sup> This notice of a Welsh monument, bearing in a most important manner on the question of the age of our Irish Oghams, is

contributed by the author of a paper on a similar bilingual inscription, laid before this Society at p. 229, *supra*.—ED.

the determining of its palæographical date. It will be observed, too, that the letters do not touch each other, nor inosculate, as is so often the case in inscriptions of the kind. The letters were correctly read by Sir Samuel Meyrick, and there is no obscurity about them. The name in the third line would seem to show an Erse connexion, as in other instances in Wales; and another peculiarity of the inscription is, that the terminations of the nominative cases are here preserved,—the words end in *vs*, not in *i*. On the whole the inscription testifies to knowledge and care.

The Oghamic inscription reads as usual, from the bottom upwards, and from left to right; and it reads exactly the same as the first three syllables of the name in the first line, only that the letter C is in the Ogham reduplicated—indicating the accent on the penultimate, and therefore testifying to the Cymric origin of the name itself. The two Oghamic marks which terminate this inscription constitute an enigma. They stand for the letters L O; but what they may signify must be left as a problem unsolved for the present. It is remarkable that the Oghamic characters do not go on further with the Latinized inscription so as to give the equivalents of the remaining lines.

The importance of the inscription consists in this, that so far as it goes, it confirms the alphabet of Professor Graves, and is in harmony with most of the other Oghams hitherto noticed in Wales.

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